



SENIOR SERVICES

Better Living Starts Here

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February 29, 2016

The Honorable Jack Brandenburg, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, MI

Dear Chairman Brandenburg and members of the committee:

I am writing today in support of Senate bill 395, the Home Accessibility Tax Credit. As a direct provider of services to the aging and the public policy chair of the MDSA (Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging), I know the serious impact that falls have for our older adult population. Forty percent of seniors injured in falls end their last days in nursing home care. Falls are the highest injury risk for older adults. And with hospitalizations, rehabilitation, and nursing home costs, the expenses incurred for both families and taxpayers can escalate quickly.

Many of the risks for falls can be eliminated or reduced by environmental modification. The Centers for Disease Control reports that falls are the most preventable cause of needing nursing home placement. Senate Bill 395 would give lower income older adults the incentive and means to make home improvements that would increase safety, minimize risk, and preserve independence and quality of life for our seniors. Overall health care costs would be reduced and stress on caregivers and frail older adults minimized. The small cost of this credit would have enormous benefits to all concerned. I urge the committee to approve this concept and advance SB 395.

Thanks you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan E. Brown, LMSW
Executive Director